

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
410-848-4646

JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE



MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACTS

CAPTAIN GERRY FRISCHKORN
ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU
WESTMINSTER POLICE
DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
21157
(410) 848-1638

CAPTAIN VINCE MAAS
CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE
100 N. COURT STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
21157
(410) 386-2900

Once again this year the Westminster Police Department and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office will be collaborating to provide joint crime prevention patrols of the commercial areas of Westminster during the holiday season. These patrols have several important purposes:

- To provide an enhanced police presence in commercial areas and serve as a deterrent to robberies, shoplifting, thefts and associated crimes;
- To provide a swift response to calls for service in these areas and to assist Patrol in handling the increased activity during this time of year;
- To provide for enhanced enforcement of all traffic laws. Particular attention will be focused on impaired driving violations, speed violations, and occupant protection laws.

Enjoy The Holiday Bustle - But Remain Aware

The holiday season - with all its hustle and bustle - is upon us. With all the distractions and activity we sometimes forget the basics for maximizing our safety on the streets and at home. By staying alert and following a few common sense crime prevention tips, you can ensure a holiday season that is both happy and safe. A primary factor in crime prevention is being aware of our surroundings and potential areas of danger - thereby closing the criminal's keyhole of opportunity.

- Outside of the mall or shopping area, stick to well-lit, well-traveled streets, walkways and parking areas - for both walking and parking.
- Don't flash large amounts of cash or offer tempting targets for theft such as expensive jewelry or clothing.
- Carry a purse or shoulder bag close to your body, not dangling by straps. Put a wallet in an inside pocket of your coat or front pants pocket.
- Don't fumble for house or car keys. Have them in your hand, ready to use when you reach the house or car door.

The Westminster Police Department and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office hope that by being aware and keeping these few tips in mind, crime won't take a toll on your holidays!

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
TIPS LINE— (410) 857-8477